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BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

RE: *U.S. Patent Application Entitled: A BARDET-BIEDL SUSCEPTIBILITY GENE AND
USES THEREOF - Val Sheffield, Darryl Nishimura, Edwin Stone*

Commissioner:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a 120-page patent specification including 67 claims, an abstract, and a 19-page sequence listing. The specification constitutes the application of Val Sheffield, Darryl Nishimura and Edwin Stone for the captioned invention.

Also transmitted herewith is a diskette containing the computer-readable form of those sequences in the specification, a Statement as Required Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(f), and a separate paper copy of the sequence listing.

☒ Applicants are entitled to Small Entity Status Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.

Please note that this application is filed without an inventors' Declaration and Assignment, a Power of Attorney, and filing fees. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) and (f), the Applicants request the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicants request that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f) be sent to the undersigned Applicants' representative.

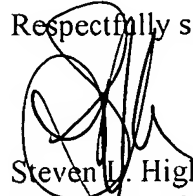
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Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven L. Highlander

Reg. No. 37,642

SH:SF

Encl.

2001 DEC 18 4 37 PM PST